

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 CEA-02 FEA-02 INT-08 SCI-06

COME-00 DRC-01 /192 W

----- 075287

R 051420Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 600

BEIRUT PASS USINT DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IT, XF

SUBJECT: ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT
TO SAUDI ARABIA

SUMMARY: ITALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR EXPRESSED SATIS-
FACTION AT OUTCOME FONMIN MORO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA
WHICH WENT OFF SMOOTHLY THANKS TO MORO'S JAN 23
STATEMENT ON ME TO ITALIAN SENATE. IT WAS A GOOD
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WILL VISIT AND NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WERE DISCUSSED

BUT GROUNDWORK HAS BEEN LAID FOR ENI AND OTHER DELEGATIONS TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. OUTCOME OF VISIT WAS TO CONFIRM ITALY'S PLACE ON THE "FRIENDS OF THE ARAB" LIST. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON ITALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR PEIRO CORDONE FEB 5 FOR RUNDOWN ON FONMIN MORO'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. CORDONE WAS WITH DELEGATION THROUGHOUT ITS VISIT AND HAD JUST RETURNED FROM RIYADH FOLLOWING MORO'S DEPARTURE EVENING FEB 3.

2. MORO DELEGATION HAD BEEN VERY LARGE--61 INCLUDING 17 PRESS REPRESENTATIVES--BUT CORDONE ATTRIBUTED THIS SOLELY TO FACT THAT REGIONAL CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN JIDDA IN CONJUNCTION WITH VISIT. HE SAID THAT WERE IT NOT FOR CONFERENCE MORO'S ENTOURAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN LIMITED TO FONMIN DIRGEN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS GUAZZARONE AND SEVERAL OTHER ADVISERS. AS IT WAS, GROUP INCLUDED IN ADDITION TO GUAZZARONE, FONOFF SEC GEN GAJA AND DIRECTOR GENERALS OF MOST DEPARTMENTS IN FONOFF.

3. CORDONE DESCRIBED VISIT AS A SUCCESS. MORO HAD NOT COME WITH ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS BUT RATHER TO IMPROVE CLIMATE IN RELATIONS AND SET THE STAGE FOR POSSIBLE LATER AGREEMENTS. CORDONE SAID SUCCESS OF VISIT HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY MORO'S JAN 23 STATE-

MENT TO SENATE ON ITALIAN ME POLICY. HE SAID STATEMENT HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY PLEASING TO SAUDIS BECAUSE IT HAD IN SOME RESPECTS (E.G. REFERENCE TO TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS) GONE SOMEWHAT FURTHER THAN MINIMUM SAUDIS HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IF ITALY WAS TO BE CONSIDERED QUOTE FRIENDLY UNQUOTE TO ARABS. ON BACKGROUND OF MORO STATEMENT TO SENATE, CORDONE SAID THAT SAUDIS ATTRIBUTED NEW ITALIAN STATEMENT ON ME TO SAUDI MINPET YAMANI'S TRIP TO ITALY EARLIER IN JANUARY. IN FACT, IT WAS A STEP THAT THE EMBASSY IN JIDDA AND OTHERS HAD BEEN URGING SINCE THE OCTOBER

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WAR. MORO HAD HAD NATURAL AVERSION TO MAKING FIRM POLICY STATEMENT ON ME, STRENGTHENED BY REPUBLICAN THREAT TO WITHDRAW FROM GOVERNMENT IF THERE WERE CHANGE IN ITALIAN ME POLICY, BUT MORO HAD EVENTUALLY BEEN BROUGHT AROUND.

4. CORDONE SAID CALL ON KING FAISAL HAD BEEN LARGELY FORMAL AND REAL SUBSTANCE OF VISIT WAS IN HOUR AND

HALF MEETING WITH MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF.
IN FRIENDLY SPIRIT OF BOTH MEETINGS ITALIANS HAD BEEN
ASSURED THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE SUFFICIENT OIL FOR
ITALIAN NEEDS. CORDONE PREDICTED THAT MORO VISIT
WOULD NOT BE FOLLOWED BY AN ENI DELEGATION AND
PERHAPS OTHERS TO WORK OUT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH
THE SAUDIS. CORDONE COMMENTED THAT "OIL FOR DEVELOP-
MENT ASSISTANCE" TYPE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE EX-
TREMELY DIFFICULT TO WORK UP BECAUSE SAUDIS SEEMED
HAVE NO FIRM IDEA OF WHAT THEY WANTED IN THE
DEVELOPMENT FIELD. IN SUMMING UP RESULTS OF VISIT,
CORDONE SAID IT HAD CONFIRMED TO ITALIANS THAT THEY
HAD MADE THE LIST OF SAUDI ARABIA'S FRIENDS.
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